

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5468

February Session, 2022



AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF HARMFUL COMMUNICATION WITH A MINOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2022) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Minor" means any person under eighteen years of age, or who 3 the actor reasonably believes to be under eighteen years of age;
- 4 (2) "Interactive computer service" has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-90a of the general statutes;
 - (3) "Inappropriate relationship" means a relationship that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is a suitable relationship between an adult and a minor; and
 - (4) "Harmful to the minor" means communication with a minor by means of an interactive computer device that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is a suitable form of communication between an adult and a minor.
 - (b) A person, who is twenty-one years of age or older, is guilty of harmful communication with a minor when such person uses an interactive computer service to knowingly persuade, induce, entice or

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- 17 coerce a minor, to: (1) Share a photographic or other recorded image of 18 the minor for the purpose of providing sexual gratification to the person 19 who requests that the image be shared, (2) share a photographic or other 20 recorded image of the minor, which the person who requests the image 21 then disseminates to one or more third persons for the purpose of 22 providing sexual gratification to such third persons, (3) engage in any 23 communication of an inappropriate sexual nature, (4) engage in any communication that is part of a pattern of communication or behavior 24 25 designed to form or maintain an inappropriate relationship, or (5) 26 engage in any communication that is harmful to the minor.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, a violation may be deemed to have
 been committed either at the place where the communication originated
 or at the place where it was received.
 - (d) Harmful communication with a minor is a class D felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1 October 1, 2022 New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), redundant language was deleted.

JUD Joint Favorable Subst.

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